

Message Text

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ORIGIN OES-07

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TO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
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AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EEC,FG, EFIS, BR

SUBJECT: SHRIMPING OFF FRENCH GUIANA

REF: BRUSSELS 05514

BRUSSELS FOR USEEC
COPENHAGEN AND MEXICO FOR FISHATTS

1. PERMREP LOTT IS CORRECT THAT NO US/BRAZIL FISHERY
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ARRANGEMENTS HAVE YET BEEN MADE FOR 1978. TALKS WERE
ADJOURNED ON FEBRUARY 17, 1978, WHEN IT BECAME EVIDENT
THAT SEVERAL OF THE PROPOSED BRAZILIAN REQUIREMENTS FOR
JOINT VENTURE/LEASING COOPERATION WITH U.S. SHRIMP FIRMS
WERE NOT ACCEPTABLE TO U.S. SIDE. BRAZILIAN NEGOTIATORS
MADE IT CLEAR THAT THERE WOULD BE NO U.S. ACCESS TO
BRAZILIAN SHRIMP RESOURCES ON TERMS OF PAST YEARS, BUT

STATED THAT BRAZILIAN REQUIREMENTS ON JOINT VENTURE/LEASING ARRANGEMENTS WOULD BE REEXAMINED AT HIGHEST LEVELS TO SEE IF U.S. DIFFICULTIES COULD BE ACCOMMODATED. NO WORD HAS YET BEEN RECEIVED FROM BRAZILIAN FOREIGN OFFICE ON RESULTS, BUT U.S. IS STILL HOPEFUL THAT SOME ARRANGEMENTS CAN BE MADE TO KEEP U.S. VESSELS OPERATING IN BRAZILIAN FISHERY. IN PAST YEARS FISHING SEASON UNDER TERMS OF AGREEMENT OPENED ON MARCH 1, SO LOSS OF PRODUCTION IS ALREADY BEING FELT BY U.S. VESSELS.

2. FRENCH CONCERN OVER POSSIBLE DROP IN PRODUCT DELIVERY TO THEIR LARGE SHRIMP PROCESSING PLANT AT CAYENNE IS UNDERSTANDABLE. ON MARCH 21, DEPARTMENT OFFICERS MET WITH BERNARD DU CHAFFAUT, SECOND SECRETARY OF FRENCH EMBASSY WASHINGTON, WHO EXPRESSED THIS AND OTHER CONCERNS. WITH U.S. VESSELS OUT OF THE BRAZILIAN ZONE, LOSS OF PRODUCTION DELIVERED AT CAYENNE COMPARED TO 1977 SHOULD BE NOTICEABLE NOW. IT APPEARS REASONABLE TO CONCLUDE THAT, AT LEAST IN THE NEAR TERM, THE RESULT OF THE CURRENT SITUATION WILL BE AN INTENSIFICATION OF FISHING EFFORT IN FRENCH GUIANA ZONE BY U.S. VESSELS BASED THERE.

3. RECENT VISIT TO GUYANA, SURINAM AND FRENCH GUIANA BY U.S. TEAM WAS AN EFFORT TO ENCOURAGE COOPERATION IN DEVELOPING SCIENTIFIC ANSWERS TO THE COMPLEX SHRIMP RESOURCE QUESTIONS FACING THE AREA. THE EXTENT TO WHICH AREA SHRIMP STOCKS ARE BEING FULLY AND RATIONALLY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EXPLOITED IS STILL LARGELY A SUBJECT OF CONJECTURE, AND A COOPERATIVE SHRIMP TAGGING PROGRAM AS PROPOSED BY NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SCIENTISTS WOULD PROVIDE INFORMATION ON GROWTH RATES, MORTALITIES AND MIGRATORY PATTERNS TO MORE EFFICIENTLY MANAGE THE STOCKS. MEANWHILE, IT IS THE VIEW OF NMFS SCIENTISTS THAT A TROPICAL SHRIMP RESOURCE, BECAUSE OF ITS QUICK GROWTH CHARACTERISTICS, CANNOT BE 'WIPED OUT' OR SERIOUSLY OVERFISHED, BUT THAT RESULT OF INCREASED FISHING PRESSURE WILL BE INCREASING TOTAL CATCH UP TO A POINT, AND AN EVENTUAL DROP IN CATCH PER UNIT OF FISHING EFFORT. THE U.S. IS HOPEFUL THAT EC COMMISSION WILL DEFER DECISIONS AFFECTING U.S. FLAG VESSEL OPERATIONS UNTIL AND UNLESS SIGNS OF DECLINING CATCH PER UNIT OF EFFORT BECOME EVIDENT. IT IS U.S. VIEW THAT TO EXCLUDE VESSELS BASED OUTSIDE FRENCH GUIANA WOULD INVITE SIMILAR ACTIONS BY NEIGHBORS AND CONTRIBUTE TO FRAGMENTATION AND UNDERUTILIZATION OF THE SHRIMP RESOURCES COMMON TO THE AREA.

4. EVEN IF A BREAKTHROUGH WERE TO OCCUR IN BRAZILIAN TALKS AND A NUMBER OF U.S. VESSELS MOVED TO BRAZIL UNDER JOINT VENTURE/LEASING SCHEMES, THE EFFECT ON PRESENT

FRENCH GUIANA SITUATION WOULD BE MINIMAL. ONE OF THE PRINCIPAL BRAZILIAN OBJECTIVES IS TO ENCOURAGE UNLOADING AND PROCESSING OF SHRIMP IN BRAZILIAN PLANTS, AS A SOURCE OF BOTH EMPLOYMENT AND FOREIGN EXCHANGE. ANY MOVEMENT OF U.S. VESSELS TO BRAZILIAN BASES COULD THEREFORE RESULT IN A DROP IN TOTAL PRODUCTION DELIVERED TO CAYENNE. DELIVERY OF BRAZIL-CAUGHT SHRIMP TO CAYENNE UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES MIGHT BE POSSIBLE ONLY IF BRAZILIAN PLANTS COULD NOT HANDLE THE PRODUCTION AND A SPILLOVER WERE NECESSARY TO SAVE THE PRODUCT.

5. MISSION WILL BE KEPT INFORMED OF DEVELOPMENTS IN US/BRAZILIAN TALKS. MEANWHILE, MISSION MAY INFORM EC AND FRENCH THAT BOTH GUYANA AND SURINAM FAVOR THE JOINT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION PROPOSED BY U.S. TEAM IN MEETINGS THERE, AND THAT WE INVITE THEIR ADHERENCE. CAYENNE REP (PUJOL) OF MINISTRY OF MARINE AFFAIRS AND LOCAL FISHERIES SCIENTIST ALSO APPEARED TO SUPPORT THE CONCEPT, AND WE BELIEVE THEIR REPORT TO PARIS WILL BE FAVORABLE. SHOULD FRENCH CONCUR, FIRST SCIENTIFIC MEETING, INVOLVING GUYANA, SURINAM, FRENCH GUIANA, AND U.S. COULD BE HELD AS EARLY AS MID-JUNE. COOPER

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